RUSSELL OF ROWLEY REGIS, STAFFS

ARMS:

CREST:

John Russell of Rowley Regis, Staffs "gentleman" c1584-a1636
Will *as yeoman* (PCC) 28 May 1636
(not present at coronation of Charles I and later fined £10 for knighthood) 2 Feb 1625.6
chn: William Russell c 28 Jun 1614 Rowley Regis

William Russell of Rowley Regis, Staffs
[? c 28 Jun 1614 Rowley Regis]
m Ann .....
chn: [?] Mary Russell c Feb 1640 Rowley Regis
[?] Ann Russell c 15 Dec 1641 Rowley Regis
[?] Sarah Russell c 12 Mar 1643 Rowley Regis
[?] Thomas Russell c 17 Aug 1645 Rowley Regis
John Russell c 23 Jun 1649 Rowley Regis
Ann Russell c 23 Jun 1649 Rowley Regis
Elizabeth Russell c 12 Dec 1654 Rowley Regis

..... Russell of Rowley Regis, Staffs
m ....
(as Mrs, "and her son", 6 hearths, Rowley Regis) 1666 HT
chn: .[son]. Russell

William Russell of Rowley Regis, Staffs "gentleman"
Will *as yeoman* (PCC) 11 Feb 1658

Richard Russell of Rowley Regis, Staffs "gentleman"
(disclaimed) *1664

John Russell of Rowley Regis, Staffs gentleman
Will (PCC) 20 Dec 1721

Thomas Russell of Barton-under-Needwood

Thomas Russell is clearly one of the most remarkable sons of Barton-under-Needwood, for his achievements were due to his own initiative and not as a result of patronage. By sheer hard work and business acumen he became a wealthy and powerful Merchant Draper in the City of London in

the latter part of the sixteenth century, owning a ‘Greate Warehouse’ and a shop, together with a great deal more property in the City and the surrounding area. The site of some of his property now lies beneath London’s Liverpool Street Railway Station.

Although there is no proof of his date of birth, for the Barton Church Register did not start until 1571 and there are no contemporary written records, we can assume that he was born in 1529. The first definite mention of Thomas Russell is in a ledger entry at Drapers’ Hall in London, dated 1543, which records him being bound as an apprentice draper. Since the usual age of starting an apprenticeship was fourteen, we can place his year of birth with some confidence.

How, then do we know that Thomas came from Barton-under-Needwood? Well, the evidence, although circumstantial, is nevertheless overwhelming.

One of Thomas’s sisters, Joane, married Thomas Bailey, a yeoman farmer, and they lived at Handsacre, near Armitage. His niece, Margery, married Thomas Temple of Barton and they were married in St. James’s Church in 1573. Thomas owned land in Barton and Dunstall and, when he died, some of this land was left to John Holland of Barton, and his executors sold the rest. He left money to the churches at Barton, Colton and Blithfield for the purchase and distribution of bread for the poor, and all three churches have charity boards recording the details.

Jesse Russell
m Elizabeth Noble dau of Thomas Noble of Boroughbridge
(of London and Walthamstow)
chn: Jesse Russell b 6 May 1786 below

Jesse Russell LATER Jesse Watts Russell of Ilam, Staffs Esquire 1786-1875
b 6 May 1786
m1 Mary Watts dau and heir of David Pike Watts of Portland Place, London;
d 21 Aug 1840
m2 20 Jun 1843 Maria Ellen Barker youngest dau of Peter Henry Barker of Bedford;
d 30 Oct 1844
m3 22 Nov 1862 Martha Leech youngest dau of John Leech of co Wexford
d 1875

(by royal license, assumed the addistional surname and arms of Watts) 28 Mar 1817

chn: Jesse David Watts Russell b 1812
Michael Watts Russell
David Pike Watts Russell
John Charles Watts Russell
Mary Watts Russell
Elizabeth Jemima Watts Russell
Isabel Watts Russell
Grace Jane Watts Russell
[2] Edward Watts Russell